

Lord Jim

吉姆爷

英语世界名著阅读丛书

江苏教育出版社

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[英] 约瑟夫·康拉德

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康拉德与《吉姆爷》

约瑟夫·康拉德(Joseph Conrad, 1857—1924)是英国著名小说家。原籍波兰,出身于乡绅家庭。其父是个爱国者和诗人,曾翻译过莎士比亚和雨果的作品,后因参加波兰民族独立运动而全家被流放到俄罗斯北部。父母去世后,康拉德由舅父抚养。他自幼向往海上的冒险生涯,1874年前往法国马赛学习航海,后在英国商船上任水手、大副,直至船长,在海上生活达20年之久。他曾到过东南亚、非洲、南美等地,目睹了远离本土的西方人在各种极端考验面前表现出的各种品格。他的小说大都取材于这段生活中的真实经历或见闻。1886年,康拉德加入英国国籍。1894年后,他因健康原因脱离海上生活,定居伦敦,专事写作。1924年4月,他谢绝了英国政府赐予的爵位称号,同年8月去世。

康拉德一生共创作了13部长篇小说,28篇短篇小说以及政论和回忆录等,为世界文学宝库增添了光彩夺目的财富。他的代表作有《白水仙号上的黑家伙》(1898)、《吉姆爷》(1900)、《黑暗的心灵》(1902)、《诺斯特罗摩》(1904)、《特务》(1907)、《在西方的注视下》(1911)等。

康拉德反对把小说单纯地看作供人消闲解闷的

故事，而主张用它作为一种探索人的特性和阐述生活哲理的手段。他十分重视小说的道德教谕作用，认为某种“道德上的发现应该是每一个故事的目标。”他的写作手法兼有现实主义和浪漫主义，擅长细腻入微的心理描写，且具有现代派的某些特征，对其后的英美现代派文学具有深刻影响。康拉德对极端处境中的人格探索、他在叙事手法方面的创新、他深刻的悲剧意识以及具有独特感染力的文体，使他的多部小说成为世界文学中的精品。美国评论家门肯称他为“唯一的一位写过小说的艺术家。”中国作家老舍称他是“一个近代最伟大的境界与人格的创造者。”

1900年问世的《吉姆爷》是康拉德最受推崇的小说之一，被誉为“本世纪英国文学中第一部突出的现代主义作品。”

小说的主人公是一位英国青年，名叫吉姆。他是帕特纳号上的大副，船在满载800名旅客前往麦加朝圣的航途中触礁，船长和几名机车手在危急之际跳上救生船逃生。吉姆为之一惊，但随后他因一念之差加入了他所鄙视的弃船者的行列。他们登岸后，方知帕特纳号遇救脱险，旅客安然无恙。法庭就此案举行审讯时，弃船者纷纷逃遁，唯有吉姆甘受制裁。这件可耻的事使他受到社会的嘲笑，耻辱和犯罪的感觉时刻折磨着他的良心。无论他到哪里，关于这一丑事的谈论也跟到哪里，使他无法安身立足。最后他作为一家贸易商的代表来到马来人的居住地帕图桑

岛。他帮助当地居民击败敌人而深得居民和头领的爱戴，被尊称为“吉姆爷”。不久之后，一伙以澳大利亚亡命之徒布朗为首的海盗来帕图桑滋事生非，被当地居民围困在一个山头上。吉姆说服头领放他们回去，不料海盗违约，杀死了头领的儿子戴恩·沃里斯。吉姆又因有失众望而恨悔不已，遂主动向头领请罪，最后，在头领的枪声中倒下，以死拯救了他的良心，赎还了自己的所有罪孽。

《吉姆爷》是一部寓意深刻的作品，表现了道德的主题，具有丰富的哲理内涵。小说通过吉姆犯罪——赎罪的情节，赞美了忠诚和尊严，斥责了背叛和耻辱。

这里译注的版本《吉姆爷》是英国朗曼出版公司出版的一个简写本。它保留了原著的主要内容，故事情节集中、紧凑，在语言方面，仅用了1800个英语常用词将原作浓缩，文字浅近流畅，适合高中和大学一、二年级学生及同等水平的英语爱好者阅读。为了方便读者，书中对一些较难词句作了注释，并在后面附上了译文，以供参考。

由于水平有限，时间匆促，译注中的错误不当之处在所难免，欢迎广大读者批评指正。

1995年6月1日

译者于南京师大

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I. A Dream of the Sea



1. A Dream of the Sea

Young Jim sat on top of a cliff. It was a summer day and the sea below him was calm and blue, shining in the sun. In his hand he held a book, his favourite kind of book, telling stories of adventure and of the brave deeds of sailors who sailed all over the world in ships. The day was warm, and Jim soon put down his book and lay dreaming of the great deeds that he himself would do when he was a man. He gazed out to sea watching a ship far away on the horizon¹, just one lonely ship.

He thought, 'That's where I would like to be! How I would love to be a sailor!' He was sixteen years old, and he knew that soon he would have to make up his mind what sort of life he was going to lead. His father was a priest and did not have much money, and he also had two other sons who were younger than Jim, so Jim knew it would help his father a great deal if he could start to work as

1. on the horizon: 在海平线上, 在遥远的天际

soon as possible.

‘There’s no better way to live my life. A ship my home, and all the world to be seen!’

Suddenly he jumped up. He picked up his book and started to run home. He was so pleased with his idea that he felt he must get back as soon as possible. He wanted to ask his father if he could go to sea and become a sailor.

He found his father in the garden. ‘Father,’ he said, ‘I have decided that I would like to be a sailor. I am sure it is what I would like to do most of all.’

His father said, ‘Well, I am pleased by your choice. You have decided on something very suitable¹. You know that I am not a rich man, and there are your brothers still to educate. I will try to get you a place in a merchant service training ship for officers²’.

‘Merchant service?’ said Jim. ‘What’s that?’

‘It is the name given to the ships and the men who sail them that carry produce like food supplies and machinery and, yes, *Passengers* too, to all the

1. You have... suitable: 你作了非常合适的选择 (decide on 作“选定, 决定”解; very suitable 在句中修饰 something, 注意应放在它的后面, 作后置定语) 2. merchant service... for officers: 商员船员训练船

seaports in the world. ’

Jim was very happy that his father agreed to help him to become a sailor.

2. The Training Ship

transport 运输
training 训练

Very soon after this, Jim was sent to the training ship. Here he learned all the arts of sailing a ship¹. He was liked by most of the other boys and the officers. He was a tall young man and very strong, and he was often sent high up the *mast* as a “look-out” because of his steadiness and strength². As “look-out”, his position was high up on the mast where there is a small platform for a sailor to stand and keep watch on the sea all around. He is the first to see another ship or some danger ahead, and it is his job to call out and warn the captain. Jim often looked down from this high post. The training ship was in port and tied up safely, but instead of seeing the houses and smoking chimneys of the town near the port, he imagined the wide empty sea, perhaps a stormy sea where he would be a *hero*, and in his mind he lived

1. the... a ship: 航海术, 航行术
strength: 因为他动作稳健, 体格强壮

2. because of... and

the sea life of the brave men in the books of adventure that he used to read at home.

‘One day, I shall do some great deed of courage, and everyone will see how brave I am!’ So he dreamed — he was always a hero in his thoughts. He always thought of himself as better than anyone else, with all the courage of the heroes in the books that he read.

One stormy day, when Jim and most of the other boys were below *deck*¹, there was a shout from above.

‘Something’s happening! Everybody on deck — hurry!’ All the boys ran quickly up to the deck. Jim followed them, and then, when he was on deck, he stood still — unable to move — suddenly full of fear. It was nearly dark on a winter’s day. The wind was strong and the rain was pouring down. Jim looked round, trying to see what was happening. It looked terrible. Many ships had come into the port for shelter², and the strong wind was throwing them about in a most dangerous and frightening way.

1. deck: 甲板, 舱面 2. Many ships... for shelter: 许多船只已进港躲蔽暴风雨 (shelter 意为“掩蔽, 遮蔽; 庇护”).

The captain shouted: 'Put a boat out¹!'

The boys moved quickly to obey, as they had been trained to do, but Jim still could not move. He went on gazing at the dreadful sea in terror². He saw that two boats had run into each other and that one of them was sinking. There were men struggling in the water. The water was too rough for swimming and they were shouting for help.

"There, straight ahead of us." The captain was pointing.

'Lower the boat!'

The boat moved away from the ship, with the boys in it fighting to row the boat through the rough water.

Jim ran to the side of the ship and watched the waves breaking over the little boat.

He heard the shouting. 'Row boys, row hard if you're going to save anyone!'

Then Jim felt a hand on his shoulder. 'Too late, young man.' It was the captain of the ship.

Jim looked at him and was ashamed.

The captain smiled. 'Better luck next time.'³

1. Put a boat out!: 放出小船 (put out 意为“放出, 伸出”)!

2. in terror: 恐惧地, 惊慌地 3. Better luck next time.: 祝你下次运气好一点。

This will teach you to think more quickly and to act at once!’

3. Heroes

There was great excitement as the little boat came back to the training ship with two men saved from the sea. Everyone on the ship cheered loudly, the boys were heroes as they told their story. A boy with a face like a girl's and big grey eyes was eagerly giving his account:

“I saw his head in the water and I threw out my *boathook*¹, it caught in his trousers, and I nearly fell into the water myself, someone held my legs and I pulled him in. The boat got half full of water, I thought we would sink!”

Jim had lost his fear by now. He felt angry with himself and with everything. He had wasted his first chance to prove to everyone how brave he really was.

‘Well,’ he said to himself, ‘I certainly

1. I... my boathook: 我抛出钩篙(threw out 意为“抛出”)